

Testimony in Support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers
Human Services Committee
Kathleen Krider
February 21, 2023

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Kathleen Krider, Sr. Director Community Engagement at Access Community Action Agency and I live in Coventry, Connecticut. I stand in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers. I serve as a Sr. Director at Access, which works to build equitable access to opportunities that empower under resourced individuals, families and communities to achieve and sustain economic stability.

Currently, Connecticut's Medicaid program does not reimburse Community Health Worker (CHW) services or incentivize health care providers to work with CHWs. Community health workers are an effective way to address inequities and promote health, particularly for low-income households served by Medicaid.

Recently, DSS and the CT Association for Community Action (CAFCA) have partnered to bring paid CHW's into CAA across CT. When that contract runs out, the important work of CHW addressing the social determinants of health will need to be continued. Medicaid reimbursement is the answer.

Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers should:

- Center community and CHW voices in all stages of design and implementation
- Reimburse at rates high enough to employ CHWs at a livable wage and cover the costs of supervision, billing, and routine training
- Cover a comprehensive list of CHW services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Krider
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